

Int'l Appl. No. : PCT/JP2004/017065
Int'l Filing Date : November 17, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows. In amendments to paragraphs, insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

Prior to the first line of the specification on page 1, please insert the following paragraph:

This application is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Application PCT/JP2004/017065, filed November 17, 2004, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-388707, filed November 19, 2003, No. 2004-086343, filed March 24, 2004, No. 2004-170679, filed June 9, 2004, and No. 2004-211337, filed July 20, 2004. The International Application was not published under PCT Article 21(2) in English.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 1 as follows:

[Fig. 48] Fig. 48 is a process chart of forming the optical connection structure in Example 1617.

Please amend paragraph [0080] on page 37 as follows:

In Fig. 20, a MPO adapter 51 has a groove 513 with an open top near the center of the location where MT ferrules are butted against each other. A sheet-shaped viscous connection member held at top and bottom, like the one shown in Fig. 16(e)6(a) above, is inserted into this groove. By providing a mechanism like this one for installing a viscous connection member in a manner supported by a supporting member inside an adapter, it becomes easy to replace the supporting member that supports the sheet-shaped viscous connection member, and workability improves as a result. This mechanism is also economical because one adapter can be used multiple times to achieve optical connection.

Prior to paragraph [0137] on page 37, please insert the following heading:

Example 15

Please amend the paragraph [0137] on pages 57-58 as follows:

To produce the optical connection structure shown in Fig. 27, a connection member (3 mm in length) retained by a U-shaped supporting member (2 mm in width) having two

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cylindrical projections (3 mm in length, 0.15 mm in diameter) was prepared. Optical connection was made using the same members as described in Example 414, except that the alignment member had two holes 423a, 423b (0.15 mm in diameter, 3 mm in depth) on both sides of the alignment groove so that the projections 341a, 341b on the supporting member 34 could be inserted into these holes. The supporting member 34 was made of stainless steel. The viscous connection member 25 used in Example 414 was attached to the bottom outer periphery of the supporting member 34 by means of coating with a brush.

Prior to paragraph [0141] on page 59, please amend the following heading.

Example 4516

Prior to paragraph [0144] on page 59, i.e., the last line of page 58, please amend the following heading.

Example 4617